

## Feasibility of Converting Hospital Schools of Nursing into Junior Colleges

THERE ARE more than 250 schools of nursing attached to the hospitals in the country. The minimum qualification required for admission to the schools of nursing is S.S.L.C. The duration of the course invariably is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 calendar years which is equivalent to almost five academic years. At the end of this study the students get only a certificate issued by the Board of Examiners. As this education takes place in an institution which is not recognised by a University or "Body of Higher Education", the qualification does not command much social value.

A student with S.S.L.C. qualification can enter a College of Arts or Science and obtain a degree at the end of four years with perhaps less strenuous studies. So the nursing students are at a disadvantage. Secondly, the nursing students in the hospital schools of nursing have one or two hours of classes a day and the rest of the time they are required to give service in the hospital at the rate of 6 to 7 hours a day or 10 to 12 hours a night mostly without any qualified staff to supervise or guide. The conditions under which the students practice in the hospitals and live in the hostels, in some places, are most deplorable. Legally speaking, it is dangerous to use the students for service when they are not licenced to practice. Luckily for us our society has tolerated this system for a long time.

Students of present day clamour for higher education and there is also a demand for post-matric vocational type of education. In some of the states vocational courses in technology, animal husbandry, teaching etc, have been introduced for candidates with the basic qualification of S.S.L.C. This type of vocational course can be organized in nursing also though nursing has lost a chance of becoming a pioneer in organising vocational type of courses in the institutions of higher education. You may be aware that there is a suggestion to convert about 90 to 100 schools of nursing into colleges of nursing for bachelor degree courses. From the remaining, at least 100 schools of nursing can be converted into junior colleges. The pattern of education in junior colleges is two languages under part I and four other subjects under Part II, for the first and second year. The syllabi and scheme of examinations for two years programme in nursing for candidates with basic S.S.L.C. qualification are given in Appendix I and II (see page 346). Syllabus at Appendix I is for those who choose to work in the hospitals and the one at Appendix II is for those who choose to work in the community centres. The syllabus is common for

the first years for both groups of students with slight difference during the second year. In the case of the two-year course for teachers there is an internship of five months. Similarly, in the case of the two-year course for nursing in the junior colleges an internship of one semester will have to be prescribed with the specific understanding that the internship should be done under the direct control and supervision of faculty members of the college. This proposal to move nursing education from the hospital schools of nursing to an institution of higher education will be in line with the recommendations of the World Health Organization (Report No. 347—year 1966).

Further I would like to stress that ours is not the only country to introduce such courses. There are vocational courses in various subjects including nursing in United States of America and Canada. The Asso-

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ciate Degree programme in nursing in USA and Canada are of two years duration in the community colleges. This course was introduced in the USA after Dr. Montag, Professor of Nursing, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, did a research study in 1952. The course has proved to be successful and Canada followed suit after nearly ten years. The basic qualifications required for admission to the A.D. programme in States is a pass in high school education which is of 12 years duration. The qualification required for admission to the A.D. programme as well as bachelor degree in nursing programmes is the same in States. But, I feel, it is necessary for us in this country to have a little difference in the entrance requirements for candidates who seek admission to the bachelor degree in nursing

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